



COUNCIL DISTRICT

FRYE LIGHTS

JUNE 2010

VOLUME VIII ISSUE VI



Serving

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

College student saves neighbor from fire *Blaze destroys home and garage of elderly deaf woman*

The capricious currents of fate flowed in Virginia Turner's favor that sunny May afternoon. She was lucky the wind was blowing from the west, and even luckier that her next-door neighbor, Randy Mitchell, had finished surfing and come home to Serra Mesa to e-mail a paper for his class at Mesa College.

Otherwise Turner, who is 87 and deaf, might not have escaped the fire that consumed her one-story home on Monette Drive near Ronda Avenue.

It was Mitchell who smelled the smoke coming from his neighbor's garage around 4 p.m. May 13. He bolted next door, grabbed Turner's walker and got her up and outside just as "the fire was busting through from the garage."

"I knew she was elderly, deaf and that she was there all alone. My only concern was to get to her and get her out," said Mitchell. "She had no idea what was going on. Even as the house started filling with smoke, she was just sitting and watching TV. If the wind had been from another direction, I might not have smelled it when I did; I might have been too late."

As Mitchell hustled Turner to safety, he heard explosions blasting from her garage. The fire had gotten to several compressed-air tanks and cans of paint stored there. Mitchell suddenly couldn't stop coughing.



Virginia Turner's house and garage were destroyed by the fire.

Turner, who was unharmed, is staying at her son's home for the time being. The fire, deemed to have started because of an overloaded electrical circuit, left her home a total loss, estimated at \$450,000. It did about \$25,000 damage to the garage of the home where Mitchell lives with his mother, brother and his brother's girlfriend.

Despite the damage, Mitchell is glad he was there to help his neighbor.

"I guess I didn't think about it," he said. "I was just racing along on adrenalin."



Randy Mitchell and his dog, Nina.

"Everything tasted like paint, and everything I coughed up was black," said the college student, who was treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation.

Mitchell called 911 and raced back into his own house to rescue his dog and cat. Then he turned on his garden hoses front and back to flood the yards and keep the flames at bay until firefighters – about 30 of them -- arrived.

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From Councilmember Donna Frye

Who's getting the money? Public has a right to know

Every year, when the city budget comes out, it is difficult to know or understand how much is being spent on contracts and with whom the City is contracting. That's because the contracts for each General Fund department are usually lumped together into one line-item with no real breakdown of how many contracts exist.

In April 2010, Councilmember Todd Gloria and I sent a memo requesting that the City contracts for Fiscal Year 2011 be posted online so the public can see how their money is being spent. (To see the memo, go to <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/pdf/memorandum/100422.pdf>.)

Last month, the City began posting some of the contracts online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/purchasing/pdf/fy10contracts.pdf>.

In addition, the City also posts a list of contracts going out for bid: <http://www.sandiego.gov/bids-contracts/>.

Posting information about City contracts online is a good first step, but more needs to be done, such as providing copies of the actual contracts online. The public has a right to know how much is being spent to run the City -- not just for the City employees, but also for private contractors. After all, it's taxpayer money.

That's why it makes sense to require private contractors to also comply with the Public Records Act, which is not currently required. The public can request and receive information about pay, benefits, schedules, etc. for the city workforce, but just try asking for that same information from a taxpayer-funded private contractor. For some reason, that information is not available to the public even though taxpayer money pays the contractors overhead and salaries as well as those of the contractor's employees.

The public's right to be fully informed is not only reasonable; it's the cornerstone of good government.

Council approves Hazard Center project without Frye

Four colleagues reject ill D6 representative's request for continuance

Seven members of the City Council approved a major development in Mission Valley last month without Councilmember Frye, who was ill and could not stay for the hearing.

The \$200 million Hazard Center project will add 473 apartments and condominiums – most of them in two high-rise towers – to what is now a 14-acre retail center at Friars and Frazee roads. Although the site-plan amendment applies only to Hazard Center, critics contend it opens the door to more high-rise condos in Mission Valley.

The developer, Oliver McMillan Co., also intends to demolish the center's movie theater – home of the annual Asian, Jewish and Latino film festivals – replace the cinema with a parking structure and add another 4,200 square feet of commercial space.

As the May 18 hearing was about to get under way, Frye announced she was ill and requested a continuance. Her motion was rejected 4-4, with Councilmembers DeMaio, Faulconer, Hueso and Lightner in opposition.

According to an Environmental Impact Report, the completed project will require 82,960 gallons of water per day, almost 4½ times Hazard Center's current use of 18,660 gallons per day.

A water analysis predicted that with conservation features such as low-flow toilets, sub-meters and leak detectors, residents of the 21- and 22-story towers would use less than 30 percent of the water consumed in typical San Diego homes.



Oliver McMillan Co. provided this architectural rendering of the planned Hazard Center redevelopment.



School now seen as unlikely at Quarry Falls

Talks with High Tech High stall after lengthy negotiations

The Quarry Falls/Civita development will bring nearly 4,800 new homes to Mission Valley, but probably not a school. The developer, Sudberry Properties, had designated 3.5 acres as a school site in its plans for the 230-acre residential/commercial project. The firm spent more than two years in negotiations to get a K-8 campus of San Diego's High Tech High. But both sides have now called it off, largely because High Tech High, under its state charter, enrolls students from all over San Diego and could not serve as a neighborhood school for the 4,780 homes, condos and apartments planned for Quarry Falls.

"That deal is officially dead," Sudberry president Tom Sudberry told the Mission Valley Planning Group. "I'm very disappointed about it."



High Tech High chief executive Larry Rosenstock said the school -- which has a large "cluster" of six elementary, middle and high schools in Point Loma and plans for similar clusters in Chula Vista and San Marcos -- draws more than 10 applicants for every opening. The school's charter requires it to accept students from throughout the city; selections are made by a zip code-based lottery.

Rosenstock said it was emphasized from the outset that any High Tech High campus at Quarry Falls could not be a neighborhood school.

"There was never a moment when we said we can make a preference for kids there," he said. "We couldn't have done that if we wanted to. . . . We would have loved to have been there if we could have worked it out."

Another obstacle was that the Quarry Falls site would have been too small for the multi-campus clusters that have become a hallmark of High Tech High. Mission Valley has only one public school, a small charter school on Camino de la Reina near Hotel Circle North.

Sudberry says he's exploring other possible alternatives with the San Diego Unified School District but is "not too optimistic about that going anywhere."

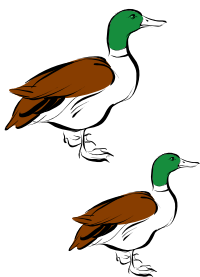
District spokesman Bernie Rhinerson said it's highly unlikely that Mission Valley will get a new school anytime soon.

"The enrollment projections aren't for huge growth in the district," Rhinerson said. Besides, he added, "we really don't have any funds to build a school."

The district has, however pledged \$20 million toward the proposed downtown library project, which would include a school.

Mission Valley's population is expected to increase 80 percent to more than 40,000 by the year 2030, according to the San Diego Association of Governments' Regional Growth Forecast. The number of school-age children is expected to increase 53 percent to about 4,000 over the next 20 years.

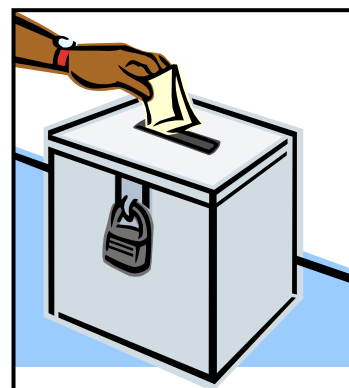
Wandering ducks taken under Donna's wing



Donna and a staffer briefly held up traffic to help a pair of dilly-dallying ducks cross Burgener Boulevard near Clairemont Drive one afternoon last month.

While her aide signaled motorists to pause, Donna gently herded the wayward waterfowl safely to the curb. They waddled onto the lawn of the Clairemont Branch Library, quacking what sounded like a "thank you."

VOTE June 8





Thousands participate in River Days events



River enthusiasts gathered in Mission Valley May 8 to kick off San Diego River Days 2010.

first-ever music and recreation festival at the Qualcomm Stadium practice field – was a huge success, drawing more than 10,000 participants to a wide range of river-related activities from Julian to Ocean Beach.

“River Days was great,” said Rob Hutsel, foundation executive director, “and the Riverfest was hopefully the start of a new tradition in Mission Valley.”

Whether biking river-side trails, hiking the mountain headwaters or re-vegetating tributary canyons, participants heightened their appreciation of the San Diego River and helped raise public awareness of its importance.

That enthusiasm encourages the coalition partners to continue efforts year-round.

“It’s great for more than 30 organizations to come together and work together for a common goal,” Hutsel said. “Every year you see people that have (River Days) T-shirts from years past, and that’s really cool.”

One of the most precious resources of Council District Six – and the entire region – is the San Diego River.

Flowing from the North County mountains through Mission Valley to the Pacific, the river was a crucial asset to the indigenous Kumeyaay Indians and first Spanish settlers. In recent decades, however, as builders covered Mission Valley with hotels, shopping centers, condos and office suites, the San Diego River often has been either overlooked or seen as a flood threat to be controlled.

Fortunately, a growing number of people today are rediscovering this long-neglected jewel and are working to restore its health, beauty and prominence. That’s the goal of the annual San Diego River Days, sponsored by the San Diego River Park Foundation in conjunction with its scores of San Diego River Coalition partner agencies (including the San Diego River Conservancy, whose board is chaired by Councilmember Frye).

Last month’s seventh annual River Days – with 42 events over two weekends, culminating in a



The River Days opening event included a hike along the San Diego River.

Street Sweeping Study Ending in Clairemont

The City of San Diego’s Storm Water Department has completed its two-year street sweeping study. The increased sweeping routes in your area were successful at preventing pollution from entering the storm drain system, and eventually our local waterways.

Results:

- Over 85 tons of trash and debris were collected
- 52 pounds of toxic metals were prevented from entering Tecolote Creek
- The City was able to comply with state and federal regulations requiring water quality improvement projects

The study will conclude by June 4th, 2010:

- Street sweepers will resume the previously un-posted schedules (every other month)
- Parking enforcement will cease on June 4th, 2010
- The City will be removing the no parking signs in June 2010



Please visit www.thinkblue.org for more information regarding street sweeping and other water quality improvement programs, or call the Storm Water Department at (858) 541-4300.



Thank you for your cooperation and support of this important water quality protection project.

Buckle up or beware: Cops cracking down on seat belt violations

Police in San Diego and across the state are cracking down on drivers and passengers who fail to wear their seat belts.

Fines and fees for failing to buckle up are increasing from \$132 to \$142 for first-time violations by adults. The fine for children under 16 not being buckled in is now \$445 for a first-time offense.

“Wearing a seat belt is simply the easiest and most effective thing you can do on the road to protect yourself and your family,” said Christopher Murphy, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. “That means buckling up day and night on every trip.”

California’s seat-belt usage rate is slightly higher than 95 percent, but that still means more than 500,000 drivers and passengers are still not buckling up, according to state officials. Belted occupants have a 50-percent better chance of surviving a vehicle crash than those not wearing seat belts.



Fashion Valley Mall aims to get more spiffy, comfy

Fashion Valley Mall is about to get a \$15 million makeover.

Officials of mall and its parent company, Simon Property Group, announced a list of upcoming renovations at a May 19 news conference at the Mission Valley retail center.

The upgrades, expected to take about 14 months, are mostly cosmetic and comfort-oriented, involving no major construction. Parking and shopping hours will be unaffected.

Added amenities will include:

- Sofas, palm trees, plants and new landscaping in common areas;
- A renovated food court with modern furnishings and skylights;
- Artistic water fountains near the Bloomingdale's and Macy's stores;
- Light towers at entrances that can be programmed to display different colors; and
- Painting and stone-tile resurfacing throughout the mall.

"We're very proud of what we have built here, and we expect this renovation to make it even better," said Simon spokesman Les Morris.

Macy's General Manager Jim Evans said the renovations should bring more shoppers to Fashion Valley, which was last upgraded with double-decking in 1997.

"While construction can be disruptive," he said, "that is a short-term inconvenience that will bring long-term gains."



Rendering of "soft seating," palms and landscaping at Fashion Valley Mall.

SM Rec Center offering summer camps, lunches

Attention working parents: Now that school's getting out, kids ages 5 to 12 can have lots of fun at the Serra Mesa Park and Recreation Center's Summer Day Camps.

The weeklong camps, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through August, will be open to up to 10 children per week. Activities planned by recreation leader LaTonya Thomas will include field trips, sports, arts & crafts and movies – all for only \$60 per week.

The center, 9020 Village Glen Drive, is also hosting another summer program providing free snacks and lunches to kids up to age 18. Sponsored by the San Diego Unified School District, the "Summer Fun Cafe" will have pizza Tuesdays and lots of other special offerings.

Additional information on both programs is available by calling (858) 573-1408.

Lots of free fun awaits at Clairemont Library

Whether you're interested in joining a book club, learning how to draw portraits, or sustainable gardening and composting, the Clairemont Library has a program for you this summer.

This month through August, the library, 2920 Burgener Blvd., is offering a wide variety of afternoon and evening classes, demonstrations and book club discussions.

For more information, call (858) 581-9935.

UNDERSTANDING SAN DIEGO'S WATER

SIGNS OF THE TIDE

Trash kills. Marine debris affects over 267 marine species, killing over 100,000 marine mammals, fish and turtles and over one million sea birds each year. 80% of that trash starts on land. What is San Diego doing about it? Get a behind-the-scenes peek at what local decision-makers are doing to curb the problem and how you can help.

Moderator:
Environmental Consultant and TV Personality
Loren Nancarrow

Speakers:
City of Encinitas Councilmember
Teresa Barth
Scripps Institution of Oceanography Scientist
Miriam Goldstein
City of Santa Monica Environmental Analyst
Josephine Miller
Regional Water Quality Control Board Assistant
Executive Officer
Jimmy Smith

June 3RD 6-8PM

Encinitas Library Community Room
540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas, CA

We'll provide snacks and refreshments. For more info, call 619-758-7743 or email sarah@sdcoastkeeper.org

www.sdcoastkeeper.org
Save the date for Signs of the Tide on Aug. 26 and Nov. 4

Logos: ZeroWaste, Encinitas, San Diego, San Marcos Coastkeeper

The City Council honored winners of the Water Department's annual water conservation poster contest for students grades 1 through 6. Three winners from each grade were chosen citywide, many of whom attended a Council proclamation ceremony May 4. The 18 winning posters were displayed in the City Hall lobby and will be featured in the Water Department's 2011 wall calendar.

In these lean times, tens of thousands of volunteers are lending greatly appreciated helping hands to the San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

Last fiscal year, 22,853 volunteers donated more than 183,000 hours to the City's parks, pools and recreation centers as well as to park programs, activities and special events, said Department Director Stacey LoMedico.

The many duties performed by volunteers include beautification projects, escorting seniors to dances and special events, leading tours and walks, doing office work or assisting at swim meets, teen dances, water-polo matches and soccer tournaments.

“The dedication of these individuals is an enormous benefit to the City’s park system,” LoMedico said.

For information on volunteering, call (619) 533-4017 or visit www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation.

Although illegal drugs get most of the attention, abuse of prescription drugs is actually a greater public threat, according to police officials in San Diego and across the country.


In addition, unsafe disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications creates environmental hazards.

To combat both of these problems, the San Diego Police Department is testing a “safe prescription drug drop-off” program at the Department’s Southeastern Division, 7222 Skyline Drive.

A reinforced mailbox has been installed in the lobby of the substation. Anyone can drop off unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., no questions asked. Additional drop-offs may be made 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month.

Police will check the box daily, collect the contents and dispose them in a manner that is eco-friendly and in accordance with state and federal laws.

Why are curb ramp upgrades necessary?

- Curb ramps are required by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the California Disabled Access Regulations.
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related state laws mandate curb ramp standards that must be met by the City. These standards are occasionally updated by the Federal government such that previously conforming curb ramps must be replaced whenever a public or private construction project triggers the replacement of the curb ramp within the project area.
 - In other words, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires the City to have a plan for upgrading all curb ramps, and there is a continuing requirement that they be brought up to current ADA standards whenever work is done to trigger upgrades (even if they were previously upgraded).
- 



What are the benefits of curb ramps?

- Curb ramps benefit people in wheelchairs to travel smoothly from the curb or sidewalk to the street. Upgrades are primarily required to prevent accident and injury for individuals with disabilities.
- Curb ramps benefit parents with children in strollers, the elderly, deliveries, etc.
- Curb ramps and truncated domes benefit the visually impaired individuals as a detectable warning at hazardous vehicular ways. It is a means for individuals to pause or stop before crossing a street.
- Curb ramps and truncated domes illustrate the City's commitment to comply with the Federal and State accessibility mandates.



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush/Weed Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
Code Violations	619-236-5500
Crime Stoppers	888-580-8477
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
Graffiti	619-525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858-694-7000
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
Parking Citations	619-236-7145
Parking Enforcement	858-495-4747
Police: Non-Emergency	619-531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	619-527-7500
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	619-527-7500
Social Services Information	211
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	619-235-1000
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
Tree Maintenance	619-527-7500
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
Water Emergency	619-515-3525
Water Utilities	619-515-3500
Zoning Regulation Information	619-236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Clairemont Town Council, <http://www.clairemontonline.com/>

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/Month
Time: 7 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: LiveWell San Diego (formerly Clairemont Senior Friendship Center)
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month
Time: Noon

Linda Vista Town Council

Place: Baha'i Center
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group

Place: Linda Recreation Center
7064 Levant Street
When: 4th Monday/Month
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Tuesday/Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Planning Group

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/Month
Time: Noon

Serra Mesa Community Council, www.serramesa.org

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 7 p.m.



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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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Web Site:

www.sandiego.gov/cd6

Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at www.sandiego.gov/cd61